

ORDERED, that Mr. *Cuthbert* have leave to bring in a Bill, to prevent harbouring run-away seamen, to repeal certain parts of an Act therein mentioned, and for other purposes.

He accordingly presented the said Bill to the House.

ORDERED, that the said Bill be translated into the French language.

A Petition of divers inhabitants of the District of *Montreal*, whose names are thereunto subscribed, was presented to the House by Mr. *Papineau*, and the same was brought up and read—

SETTING FORTH—That doubts have lately been entertained how far by the laws and statutes in force in this Province there can be any property in Negroes and Panis. From such doubts having effected the interests of many of the Petitioners, they feel themselves deeply impressed with the necessity of having it determined by an Act of the Legislature that slavery under certain modifications exists in this Province, and at the same time of vesting in a more effectual manner the property in slaves in their masters, and of providing laws for the proper regulation and government of such a class of men as come within the description of slaves. That the Petitioners humbly conceive that such an Act would be of great and general advantage to the Province.

That the Petitioners beg leave to submit that an Ordinance of Mr. *Raudot*, Intendant of *Canada*, dated 13th of April, 1709, Enacts under the pleasure of His Most Christian Majesty, “ *Que tous les Panis et Negres qui ont été achetés ou qui le seront par la suite, apartiendront en pleine propriété à ceux qui en ont fait ou qui en feront l'acquisition en qualité d'Esclaves.*” That this law which was duly enregistered and published, and was never altered or repealed, the Petitioners humbly conceive, was in full force at the Definitive Treaty of Peace, and under the 14th of His present Majesty, makes a part of the laws of this Province.

That it appears in the opinion of the Petitioners, that since the Establishment of the African Company, in the year 1661, the existence of slavery so far as it respects Negroes, has been established and confirmed in all His Majesty's Dominions in *America*. Free liberty was given by a variety of Statutes from that time to the present day, to purchase